

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-24 and 27-28, as amended, appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 2-3 are currently withdrawn, but these should be allowed when claim 1 is allowed. The subject matter of claim 4 has been added to claim 1 and claim 4 has been cancelled. Minor changes have been made to claims 5, 6, 8, 10, and 20, to correct dependencies. As no new matter has been introduced, all claim changes should be entered at this time.

The allowance of claims 27-28 is appreciated. The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-6 and 20-22 is noted with appreciation. In response, we have added to claim 1 the features of allowable claim 4 so that claim 1 should be allowable. As all other claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, the entire application should now be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner not agree, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues in order to expedite the eventual allowance of this application.

For completeness, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed to submit references that were cited in a related application. The applicants and their attorneys have reviewed these references and have found that they are not material to the patentability of the present claims. The Examiner's confirmation of this fact would be appreciated by making these references of record in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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